



CONCERT REHEARSAL—Bill Krimmel of Lomita, cellist with the Torrance-South Bay Symphony Orchestra, rehearses for pop concert Sunday at 3 p.m. in Torrance Park. The orchestra will present the free concert under the baton of Elyse Aehle. Press Photo



READY FOR OPENING—Newly appointed principal Myrl C. Rupel inspects sign at Calle Mayor Elementary School which will open for the new semester. Rupel, a flying enthusiast, commuted by air between his former post at Yucca Valley and SC where he was studying. (Press Photo)

Flying Principal Assigned to School

Torrance's newest elementary school, Calle Mayor, will open its doors to more than 400 students this fall, relieving double sessions problems at Seaside and Meadow Park Schools.

Workmen now are putting finishing touches on the school, located at 4800 Calle Mayor, with classes to begin on Sept. 11. Designed by Architect Roy Donley, the school contains 13 classrooms, two kindergarten rooms, homemaker and shop units, and an administration building.

Principal at the school will be Myrl C. Rupel, 29, principal at Yucca Valley for the past two years.

Rupel's hobby is flying and he flew his own plane back and forth from Yucca Valley to Los Angeles while getting his master's degree at S.C. He holds a commercial pilot's license. As a boy, he used to save the money he made from his paper route to buy rides in planes.

He spent nine months in China in 1947 with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, teaching farmers the use of tractors and other agricultural machinery. The advance of the Chinese Reds prior to taking over the country forced

Picture Preview, Another First, in Today's Press

With summer vacation nearing its end, this is the time when families who want to move, take the big step in order to avoid the confusion of making a later move when school has started.

In order to help these families in finding a new home, the Torrance Press this week starts another first.

This consists of picture previews of homes for sale in this area. Readers will be able to see photos of the actual listings, and get an idea of what the house actually looks like. This picture feature will be found in today's classified real estate section.

Infant Dies in Bathtub

A 17-month-old baby was scalded to death in a bathtub accident Sunday night.

The infant, Larry Wayne Merrick, died in Children's Hospital a few hours after it received third degree burns on its lower body, deputy sheriffs reported.

Howard Allen Merrick, 23, of 4551 W. 170th st., told deputies that when his family returned from the beach, his wife, Margaret Agnes, 21, ran some water into the bathtub and put Larry, and his two-year-old brother in it to wash off the sand.

Mrs. Merrick said that she only filled the tub approximately two inches high and left the tots in it while she went next door to a neighbor's home to make a telephone call.

In the meantime, her husband left the house to take some friends with whom the Merricks had spent the day, home.

When Mrs. Merrick returned a few moments later, she found the older boy at the door, complaining that the water was too hot.

When she rushed into the bathroom, Mrs. Merrick discovered that the faucets which she had turned off securely, on, and the tub, filled with hot water.

The scalded youngster was rushed to South Bay Emergency hospital and later transferred to Children's Hospital, Los Angeles where he died a few hours later.

Parking Loss Seen Down Town

Members of the Traffic Commission have asked for a report on how many parking spaces will be lost if one-way streets are instituted in the downtown area.

Councilman Robert Jahn, chairman of the commission, said that angle parking will have to be eliminated if the one-way program is to be effective.

He asked City Engineer Ronald W. Bishop to make a survey on how many stalls will be lost if parking is switched to parallel curb parking.

An off-hand guess, Jahn said, is the loss of six spaces per block.

He said that if parking spaces have to be eliminated, then the city should find a lot for off-street parking purposes.

Another problem to the one-way plan is that much of the congestion will not be eliminated unless pedestrian control is revised, Jahn said.

The councilman contends that signals, already approved by the City Council, will be the answer to controlling congestion caused by pedestrians.

Decision on the one-way proposal made by the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Retail Merchants Association, will be made at the commission meeting Sept. 11.

Man Kills Self
Death of Russell L. Leach, 42, of 2209 W. 169th place, was listed as a suicide by Torrance police, who are still probing the motive.

'Kidnaped' Boys Just Runaways

Two 12-year-old runaways gave their parents and police some anxious hours early yesterday morning after they told a weird story of being kidnaped.

The boys, an uncle and a nephew, were found hobbling around, bound and gagged at Hawthorne Blvd. and 182nd st. shortly after 5 a.m.

They said that a man abducted them, tied them up and finally released them near the South Bay Shopping Center.

Despite their imaginative account of the kidnaping, Torrance police soon got the true story from them.

It seems that the boys, decided Tuesday to walk up to Slip Rock, a camping area near Bakersfield. To prepare themselves for the necessary expenses, they cracked a piggy bank and took out 13 cents in traveling funds.

Starting from their South Torrance home, they managed to get as far as the South Bay Shopping Center.

The walk took a long time, and since it was getting dark, and parental discipline loomed at home, they decided they better stay out all night.

To cover up for their absence, they took a leaf from television Westerns, and decided they would tie themselves up and claim they were kidnaped.

They found some string and webbing material in the trash cans and one of them gagged the other with a handkerchief and tied his arms and legs securely.

Then the other tied the twine around his own legs and arms.

They hobbled over to 182nd st., where they sat down by a telephone pole. Shortly afterward, they were discovered by a newsboy who flagged Torrance Officers Charley Oates and Joseph Capriotti.

They told the policemen that a man in a black and white car had kidnaped them and tied them up, but that they finally managed to jump out of the vehicle.

Some more expert questioning by Sgts. Gus Rehwisch and Mickey Fischer, disclosed the truth.

The boys were last seen leaving the police station with the father of one of them.

Dad had a rather grim expression on his face.



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Jealous Boy Friend Pistol-whips Woman



ARRIVAL TOAST—Fred Classen, left, a German youth, and Tom Quaggin of Torrance, toast each other as they returned here last week. Quaggin had stayed at Classen's home in Germany, and now Quaggin is returning the hospitality. Beer steers are more 50 years old. (Press Photo)

General Phone Co. Gets Rate Increase

Torrance subscribers to the General Telephone Co., will be in for a rate increase Aug. 30, when a Public Utilities Commission order becomes effective.

The PUC granted the phone company, which serves the western and southern parts of Torrance a rate hike on Aug. 5.

The new schedule hits heaviest at business services whose rate for single and two-party service will be hiked by \$1.90 per month. Present rates for business phones are \$10.50 a month for single service and \$8.25 for two-party lines.

Residential single party service will increase from \$5 to \$5.35; two party service from \$4.10 to \$4.20, and four-party service from \$3.50 to \$3.55, PUC officials said.

The rate hikes were opposed by the city. A PUC spokesman said that the board had cut the original requests by the company substantially.

The phone company had asked rates of \$6 for single party residential phones, \$4.85 for two-party service and \$3.80 for four-party service. Single business phone request was for \$13, and two-party business for \$10.70.

Crashes House Of Victim

A Lomita woman was severely pistol-whipped by a jealous boy friend who broke into her home early yesterday morning.

Lois W. Frye, 32, of 507 Harbor Hills ave., was taken to Hillside Memorial Hospital for emergency treatment of numerous cuts and bruises on her face, head and neck.

Booked on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and burglary was Robert Alvin Mehl, 42, of 26410 Ozone ave., Harbor City, a machinist.

Mrs. Frye told deputy sheriffs that Mehl demanded she admit him to her home, and when she refused to let him in, he smashed a window.

The woman said that Mehl accused her of going out with another man, and when she told him it was none of his business, he beat her with a pellet pistol.

According to the alleged victim, the suspect then dragged her out of the house, beating her continuously.

Mehl cut his hands when he broke the window, and was treated at the emergency hospital before being booked at Lennox Sheriff's Station.

Deputies said that Mrs. Frye appeared dazed and had a black eye when they arrived at the house after being summoned by a neighbor.

Phony Policemen Stop Auto on Lomita Street

Deputy sheriffs were hunting two men who stopped a car in Lomita by impersonating policemen.

The pair ordered a vehicle driven by Juanita Shoup of Wilmington, to pull over at Pacific Coast highway and Cypress ave.

The suspects shined a light as they pulled along side the car, and said, "Pull over, we're police."

They both got out, but when they saw a man, Jack Slater, and another woman, Junita Sarvis, also of Wilmington, they got back into their car and drove off.

Court House Exterior Hit

His artistic senses ruffled, Mayor Albert Isen asked a probe of whether the new county court building in the civic center will conform to the exteriors of the city buildings.

The mayor said the \$325,000 court house presents "a glaring contrast to the other buildings."

Isen said that the county promised that its building will conform to the city hall and police station which have a buff exterior with brick trim, while the court house is all brick.

He asked City Manager George Stevens to find out if the court house will be painted or otherwise changed to conform to the other structures.

Two Youngsters Claim \$225,000 Injury Damages

Damages of \$225,000 are sought in behalf of two Torrance youngsters in actions filed in the Superior Court by Attorney Boris S. Woolley.

Seeking \$105,000 is Patricia Montague, 11, of 1633 Date ave., who claims injuries sustained in a ride at the Long Beach Nu Pike amusement park.

Another, \$120,000 judgment is sought by Marcia Hilton, 6, of 5203 Stevann st., who alleges through her parents, that she was injured in an auto accident.

The complaint filed by Woolley, asserts that Patricia was riding in an auto scooter device and was thrown against the heavy metal side of the vehicle, last Aug. 25.

The suit claims that the amusement concession operators operated the device at excessive speeds and in an erratic manner.

The action asserts that Patricia suffered fractures of the nose and head resulting in permanent disfigurement.

Long Beach Amusement Company and several individuals are named as defendants in the action.

The suit filed in behalf of Marcia Hilton claims that she was seriously injured when she was struck by a car on Lillian st. on April 9 while she was walking across the street.

Named as defendants were Charles Lewis Miller, Jr., and Reiger Textile Corp.

Mistake Leads to Savings

A mistake turned out to have a silver lining for the taxpayers as the Torrance Board of Education Tuesday night awarded a \$368,414 bid for construction of the Lincoln Elementary School, 166th and Arlington ave., to Carter-Mack Builders, Inc.

This was the second time the project had been up for bid. A month ago, the board had to reject all bids for the project because of a technical error in specifications. The Carter-Mack bid was \$25,000 lower than the lowest bid the first time, saving the taxpayers money. In fact, all 13 bids were lower than the previous low bid.

The new school will contain 13 classrooms, two kindergarten units, administration unit, multi-purpose building, and music building. Slated for completion in late spring of 1959, it will be opened the following September.

In other building action, the board okayed preliminary plans for making Fern School earthquake-proof, in accordance with state law. At the same time, the 26-year-old building will be modernized, with the addition of acoustical tile, better lighting, glare control, and heating system improvements.

Steel supports will be added to the walls of Fern School, insuring its strength in case of earthquake. Work is expected to begin sometime next year, after state approval is received and final plans are drawn. The cost will be about \$300,000.

Torrance Youth Hosts Son of Exchange Student Days Family

Tom Quaggin, 19, is now returning the hospitality to a guest whose family hosted him while he was an exchange student in Germany two years ago.

When Quaggin, 19, returned Monday from Europe, he brought with him as his guest, Fred Classen, 20, with whose family he had stayed while the Torrance youth was studying in Germany in 1956.

Quaggin, of 1609 Amapola st., has been in Germany twice. Once under auspices of the American Field Service, and again this year to study at a German university.

Both times he stayed with Classen's parents in Wurtzburg. Classen himself returned to Germany this summer from Canada where he had been working on ranches. Both youths came back to Torrance together.

Quaggin is interested in a career in international law and expects to return to Germany to study there for at least three years. During the next year he expects to enroll at Long Beach State College.

Classen is interested in buying a ranch in the southwestern part of the United States.

While in Germany on his latest trip, Quaggin supplemented his income by teaching English at a Berlitz school.

City In Drastic Gain in Assessed Valuation Rank

By skipping two notches, Torrance has climbed into eighth place in assessed valuation in the county.

With estimated valuation of \$169,272,000, this city registered an increase of \$25,000,000 during the past year, Torrance Chamber of Commerce officials pointed out.

With the exception of Los Angeles and Long Beach, no city in the county has gained more than \$10,000,000 except for Torrance which far exceeded this amount.

Assessed valuation and rank of nearby cities are:
Inglewood, 12th, \$99,543,670; Hawthorne, 21st, \$60,512,700; Redondo Beach, 28th, \$42,889,710; Gardena, 30th, \$39,273,850; Manhattan Beach, 37th, \$32,529,160; Palos Verdes Estates, \$22,362,680; Hermosa Beach, 46th, \$16,780,430; Rolling Hills, 56th, \$5,774,440, and Rolling Hills Estates, 58th, \$5,228,250.

Sixty cities in the county were included in the survey.

The assessed valuation figures are an important part in setting the tax rate. The City Council will adopt its final budget Aug. 26, after it receives official notification of the valuation of the city.

Other Cities
\$219,956,000; Vernon, \$204,735,000; Glendale, \$185,305,000 and Santa Monica, \$183,290,000.

Past Pace
Chamber officials predicted that if the trend continues, Torrance will outpace every other city except for Los Angeles and Long Beach.

In making the climb, Torrance nudged out El Segundo and Beverly Hills, which were ahead last year when Torrance's valuation was placed at \$144,083,000.

Leading in assessed valuation is Los Angeles with \$3,868,954,000; Long Beach, \$521,060,000; Burbank, \$285,416,000; Pasadena, city.

Demo Club to Sign up Voters
A drive to sign up all voters not registered for the November election is being conducted this Saturday by the North Torrance Democratic Club, President John Mulvihill announced.

Fifteen precinct workers will canvass the northside to register voters. Persons who wish to register may call Murl Reeves at FR 4-2862.

The week of Aug. 24 to 30 has been designated Torrance Registration Week by Mayor Albert Isen. Deadline for registering to vote in the November election is Sept. 11.

The North Torrance Club will also sell tickets for the reception and luncheon for Attorney General Edmund G. Brown on Aug. 30. Reservations may be made by calling Mulvihill at DA 9-2188, Thrivin D. Fleetwood, at DA 9-3924, or Harmon Belcher, at 9-3518.